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The New Southland.

PROGRESS PUSHES PREJUDICE ASIDE.

The Remarkable Career of Col. R. R. Church, a Large Tax Payer, a Successful Business Man and a Leader—Change in Public Sentiment—The Home Life of Mr. Church, His Own-esting Family and some of His Own-ings.

Memphis, Tenn. — Special. — Memphis has a population of about 150,000, half of whom are Afro-Americans. The condition of our people in this city is about the same as it is in any other southern city. When the terrible epidemic of yellow fever in '78 and '79 caused our city to be almost depopulated, it was virtually in charge of our people. After the ravages of the fever had subsided and the whites had returned home, it was the unanimous opinion of the ruling classes that the police force should always be equally divided between the races in recognition of services rendered by our people when all others left the city to care for itself. The force remained half black and half white for a few years, till finally a sentiment against our men in uniform was created. The papers began writing long articles on the humiliation caused white men on being arrested by "niggers." They did this to such an extent that the conservative white people forgot all about the valuable services of their Negro officers when they could not get others to serve, so to satisfy the race hatred every one was removed from the service. To-day, while we pay taxes on thousands of dollars worth of property, we have no more voice in affairs pertaining to our city government than a Chinaman in Africa.

If we are to judge the sentiment of our city by the daily papers, feelings against the Negro as an officer are increasing. We are, however, permitted to earn an honest living in a great many ways. I have never traveled north, but have been told that advantages for work are far superior south for our people than there. However true this may be, I do not think any man of good hard sense, who has lived here, unless he is too prejudiced to tell the truth, will say the Negro, if he wants to work, is denied that right. Evidences of these opportunities may be found in every southern city, town and country district. The log cabins and tenement houses in which six and eight persons formerly slept, cooked, washed and ate are being transferred as if by magic into beautiful cottages and two-story residences made of brick and stone. Floors are carpeted and pianos or some other musical instrument ornament the homes of

Men of the Hour.



MR. ROBERT R. CHURCH,

Memphis, Tenn. The Largest real Estate Dealer of His Race in the South and Owner of the Only Park and Auditorium of its Kind in the World.

three-fourths of our people.

No better example in the entire south could be offered as proof of our financial success than in the life of Mr. Robt. R. Church, of our own home city. Mr. Church ranks with the largest real estate dealers in this section. You can scarcely go in any direction in our city that you do not find his property; so large are his possessions it is necessary to keep a young man collecting every day in the year at a salary of \$75 per month. Five hundred thousand dollars would be a moderate estimate of his wealth. No man in our city stands higher than he in

the business circles. He is a man known to be extremely slow in saying yes, but when his word is given there is not a woman, man or child in Memphis who would have the least possible doubt as to his promise being fulfilled. In things pertaining to the interests of his race he is almost faultless.

There was a time when we were compelled to accept "Jim Crow" treatment in Memphis theatres or accept none; we were compelled to have our school exercises where our ladies were

Our Soldier Boys.

THE BATALION IN A COMPETITIVE DRILL.

Company B of the M Street High School Wins in a Hotly Contested Battle—The Flower of Washington Society Turn Out to Witness the Contest—The Marine Band Enlivens the Occasion with Patriotic Airs—The Order of the Drill.

On the afternoon of Saturday the 23rd instant, the annual competitive drill of the companies composing the battalion of cadets recruited from the pupils of the M St. High School and the Armstrong Manual Training School took place at the American League Baseball Park and served to bring out an immense number of the friends of the pupils and of the general public. These annual competitions have always been most popular functions, not only in school circles, but with every element of society. They are encouraged by the school authorities as an important factor in the development both of mind and muscle, a material aid in imparting the lessons of discipline and precision.

For weeks prior to the event, partisanship ran high, though with the utmost good humor. The young ladies and girls of the two schools soon caught the infection and bravely bedecked themselves with the colors of their favorites, and we suspect that even the dignified teachers themselves, however alert to quell any overt act of enthusiasm, found it impossible not to indulge in some secret hopes that this or that company should win the laurels.

Saturday was an ideal Spring day, and when the companies marched afield in the afternoon, they were greeted with hearty and impartial applause by the magnificent and representative audience present, which must have included no fewer than five thousand persons. The scene was stirring. Flags and streamers each with the name of a chosen company, the vivid coloring and charming animation impossible except in an audience of high class colored people, the cries of challenge and the answering yells of defiance were sufficient to quicken the pulses, even of the worn out stager, accustomed to loll listlessly through every function, to say nothing of the warm blooded youth who thronged every stand and irritated the atmosphere with leather lunged power. Verily, Verily, 'twas good to be there, if only to bite off a chunk of these dear young people's innocent and hearty enthusiasm, to take from them renewed interest in the wholesome things of life, and

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